

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-11 /070 W
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R 060421Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9419

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, CH

SUBJ: CHIANG CHING ENTERS THE FRAY

1. TWO ARTICLES IN THE MARCH 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY BROADEN THE ATTACKS AGAINST TENG AND OTHER CAPITALIST ROADERS CLAIMING THAT THE ANTI-RIGHTISTS WHO BEGAN STIRRING UP TROUBLE LAST SUMMER DID SO IN LITERATURE AND ART AS WELL AS IN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE ADDITION AT THIS TIME OF CHIANG CHING'S PET AREA OF CULTURE TO THE CURRENT STRUGGLE INDICATES A CAREFULLY PLANNED EVOLUTION OF ATTACK. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT MADAME MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTIONARY DOMAIN IS A RELATIVELY WEAK LINK OF ATTACK, WHICH COULD ONLY BE PICKED UP ONCE THE CAMPAIGN WAS ALREADY UNDER WAY, BUT WAS NOT A SUFFICIENTLY STRONG CASE TO LAUNCH THE CAMPAIGN.

2. THE TWO PIECES ARE BY CHU LAN, ONE OF CHIANG CHING'S
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LEADING LITERARY SPOKESMEN, AND REPORTERS FROM PEOPLE'S DAILY AND NCNA. BOTH REFLECT A GREAT DEAL OF ANIMOSITY

TOWARD CRITICS OF MRS. MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY PLAYS AND THE LANGUAGE IS VERY PERSONAL AND NAGGING. EVEN MORE INTRIGUING IS THE CHARGE THAT "THAT CAPITALIST ROADER" AND OTHERS ISSUED AN ORDER OF "READJUSTMENT" TO TRY TO REVIVE THE PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION LINE IN LITERATURE AND ART. THIS IS AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO THE MANY PROMINENT CULTURAL FIGURES REHABILITATED LAST YEAR (75 HONG KONG 11871), AND MAY ULTIMATELY TRACE BACK TO AN INSTRUCTION BY CHOU EN-LAI, WHO CRITICIZED CULTURAL WORK IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE 4TH NPC (75 HONG KONG 4130).

3. BOTH ARTICLES, AMONG THEIR MANY ACCUSATIONS, SCORE THE CAPITALIST ROADERS FOR TRYING TO REVERSE THE VERDICT ON "THREE VISITS TO TAOFENG," A PLAY HEAVILY CRITICIZED IN 1974 AS BEING PRO-LIU SHAO-CHI. CHU LAN LAUNCHED THE ORIGINAL ATTACK AGAINST THAT PLAY, WHICH WAS SHOWN IN PEKING UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF CURRENT POLITBURO MEMBER AND PEKING MUNICIPAL CHIEF WU TEH. WU, LIKE TENG, HAS NOT APPEARED SINCE JANUARY 15, AND HE MAY BE ONE OF THE NEXT TARGETS OF ATTACK.

4. COMMENT: THREE MONTHS AFTER THE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WAS BEGUN, CHIANG CHING HAS FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON CRITICS OF HER CULTURAL WORKS. SIMILAR ATTACKS WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST HER CULTURAL DETRACTERS IN MID-1974, BUT THEY WERE STIFLED AND SHE REMAINED OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT FOR MOST OF LAST YEAR. NEW THAT CHIANG CHING'S VOICE HAS ENTERED INTO THE CURRENT DEBATE, IT WILL NOT BE EASILY SUPPRESSED. CROSS

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